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PARIS AND ARBITRATION;—MR. PRATT.

The *Daily News* correspondent in Paris writes, December 3d:—I have had a conversation with Mr. Hodgson Pratt on his present visit to Paris, which aims at the furtherance of the principle of arbitration as a means of getting rid of the militarism which is crushing Europe. He has reason to think that the number of Frenchmen in favor of his mode of settling international quarrels is on the increase. However, they have not faith enough in the principle to leave off voting great sums for national defence, or to renounce the duty which they think honor and justice imposes on them of claiming the return of Alsace and Lorraine to France—an event which they hope will take place without resorting to arms. The representatives of several Arbitration Societies have held a meeting here to arrange for a Universal Peace Congress in Paris in 1889.

A meeting was held at the Continental Hotel, at which the MM. Yves Guyot, Gaillard, Frederick Vauquier, and Siegfried were present. There were also present a number of university professors, town councillors, and other eminent and distinguished persons. Mr. Hodgson Pratt was in the chair.

We are glad to observe that Mr. Pratt's health is better than it was some time ago. For his is a very valuable life. Perhaps no one, since the days of the late Joseph Sturge, has devoted more personal attention, labor and money, to the arduous work of peace propaganda on the European Continent. He has well followed up and maintained, in this direction, the similar efforts of the late Mr. Henry Richard, M. P. Mr. Pratt is almost a Peace Society in himself. It would be a great boon to the mother-organization if she had, within her own ranks, more such talented and disinterested men, thus able and willing to devote their own lives and fortunes to the personal extension of the cause.—*Herald of Peace*.

UNHAPPY BISMARCK.

Prince Bismarck is reported to have said, " Nobody loves me for what I have done. I have never made anybody happy, not myself, nor my family, nor anyone else. But how many have I made unhappy? But for me, three great wars would not have been fought. Eighty thousand men would not have perished; parents, brothers, sisters, and widows would not be bereaved and plunged into mourning. * * That matter, however, I have settled with God. But I have had little or no joy from all my achievements—nothing but vexation, care, and trouble." Who would care to carry with him the daily burden of a war-maker?

One of the grandest works ever undertaken by our Government was the establishment, in 1871, of what is called the Life-Saving Service, under Hon. S. I. Kimball, for the rescue of ship-wrecked men and vessels. There are now 226 of these stations, of which 173 are on the Atlantic coast. Last year over 700 lives and nearly \$8,000,000 worth of property were saved. Some of the most heroic deeds in history are recorded of the men who engage in this perilous work. For real bravery what could exceed that fierce fight with the wind and the waves along Nantasket Beach, when twenty-eight lives were snatched from the fiery jaws of death?

SAMOA.

The Samoan (formerly Navigators') Islands are a lovely oasis in the lonely waste of the South Pacific. Picturesque, fertile, resourceful, they have for a decade allured the eyes of three great nations, and of these the United States was the first to embody in a formal treaty a reciprocal interest and attachment. It was in 1878 that the administration of President Hayes made a treaty with King Malietoa, which guaranteed to us the privileges which we desired, and to him the recognition which he was sanguine enough to regard as the pledge of his stability. At the beginning of the following year he entered into a commercial convention with Germany, and six months later bound himself by a similar instrument to England. The new zeal for colonizing with which the German people were inspired, found one of its earliest outlets in Samoa, and subsequent events lead inevitably to the conclusion that Prince Bismarck designed his compact with Malietoa to bear such fruitage as that blameless king had never dreamed of. A German trading-house had already acquired such a foothold in the islands as to serve the purposes of diplomacy whenever the time seemed ripe, through the public pretence of vested rights. In 1884 Prince Bismarck conceived that the moment had arrived for the application of a firm, but gentle pressure, and the Samoan King put his name to a treaty which he almost immediately repudiated as having been signed under duress, and which England and the United States refused to consider binding. Two years later the South Pacific delimitation treaty between England and Germany declared Samoa *neutral territory*, but in the interval the German consular and mercantile agents began a line of conduct which aroused the fears and susceptibilities of the Samoans, and grossly outraged the dignity of their king; so that when in the spring of 1886 a German squadron steamed into the harbor of Apia, no one was surprised, and least of all Tamasese, who had been incited to rebellion by Dr. Stuebel, the German consul, and Mr. Weber, the German tradesman. This parade of power was not the first overt act, but it was the most imposing demonstration in the long series of outrages which have resulted in the capture and deportation of King Malietoa by Germany and in a devastating civil war.—*Arthur Richmond, in N. A. Review*.

Lord Salisbury and the official world may take what view they will of the Sackville incident; the people of Great Britain have not on that account abated one jot of their friendliness for their American kin beyond sea.

If, however, there be in America any who wish the people of the two countries to be enemies, they, and they only, have the cause to reject and resent the farewell manifestations of good will to the American Minister.—*George W. Smally, London correspondent of N. Y. Tribune*.

The path of life we walk to-day
Is strange as that the Hebrews trod;
We need the shadowing rock as they,
We need, like them, the guides of God.

God sends His angels, cloud and fire,
To lead us o'er the desert sand!
God give our hearts their long desire,
His shadow in a weary land!

—Whittier.